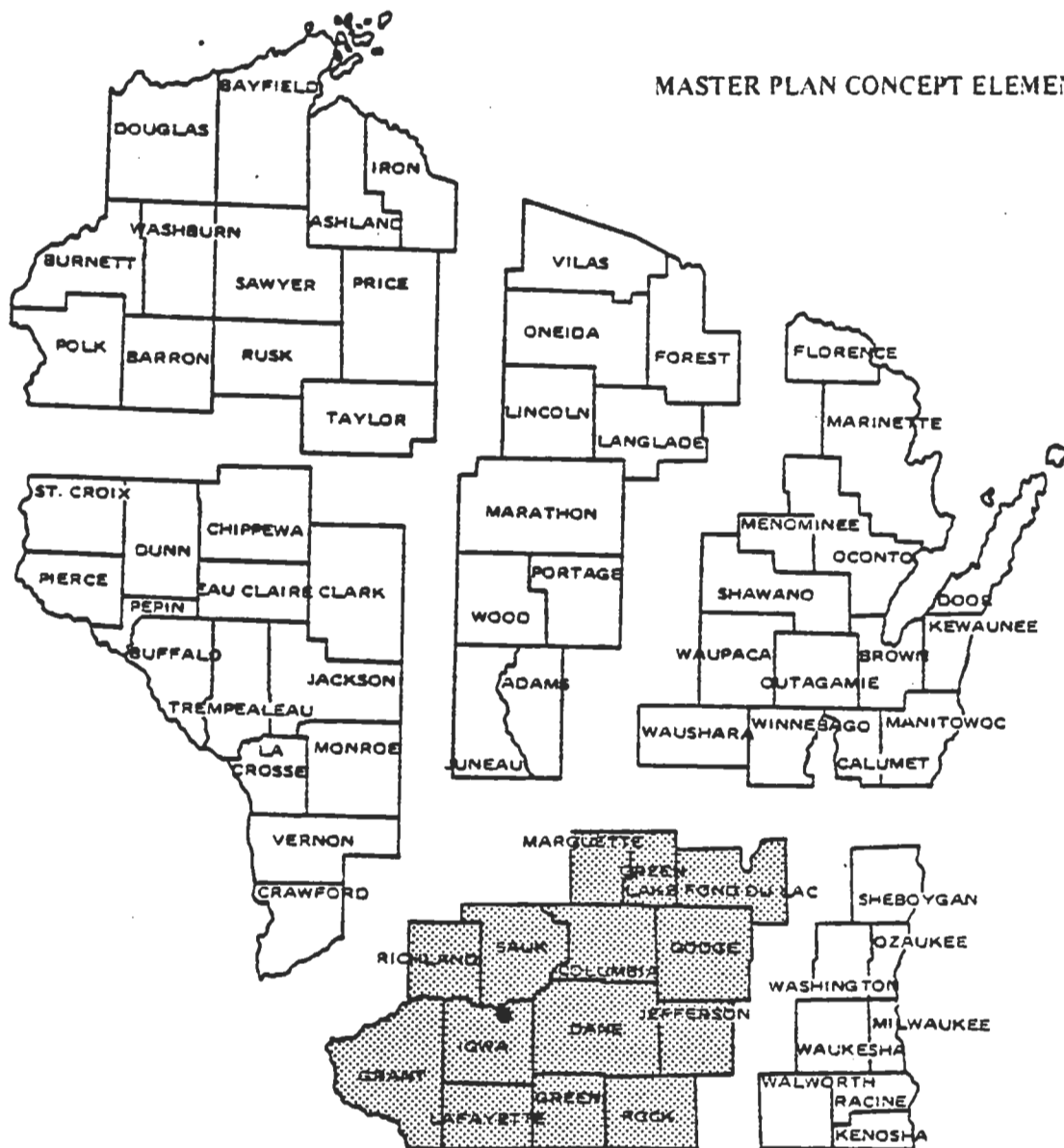


TOWER HILL STATE PARK

MASTER PLAN CONCEPT ELEMENT



Approved by Natural Resources Board:

PROPERTY TASK FORCE

Leader — Steven H. Lewis, Bureau of Parks & Recreation
 Rich Purin, Park Superintendent
 Carolyn Agnew, Forester-Ranger
 Thomas Meier, Wildlife Manager
 James Widder, Area Forester
 LeRoy Wiesner, Conservation Warden

Submitted: 9/80

3-26-81

Date

TOWER HILL STATE PARK
TABLE OF CONTENTS
Section I - Actions

A. Goals and Objectives

1. Goal
2. Objectives
3. Additional Benefits

B. Recommended Management and Development Program

1. Property Development Proposal
2. Land Acquisition, Subsequent Development, and Major Management Recommendations
3. General Timetable
4. General Costs
 - development
 - operations maintenance
5. Other Considerations

C. Maps and Graphics

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Figure 1. | County Locator |
| Figure 2. | State Locator |
| Figure 3. | Regional Locator |
| Figure 4. | Soils |
| Figure 5. | Geology |
| Figure 6. | Vegetative Cover Map |
| Figure 7. | Ownership |
| Figure 8. | Existing and Proposed Development |
| Figure 9. | Scientific Area |
| Figure 10. | Land Use Potential |

Section II - Support Data

A. Background Information

1. Location
2. Regional Context
3. History of Property Creation
4. Current Management Activities and Uses
5. Ownership
6. Other

B. Resource Capabilities and Inventory

1. Soils, Geology and Hydrology
 - soils
 - landform
 - hydrology - water resources
2. Fish and Wildlife
 - fish
 - wildlife
3. Vegetative Cover
 - park lands
 - scientific area
4. Historical and Archaeological Features
 - history of area
 - general chronology of park history
 - archaeological
5. Land Use Potential
 - Resource Protection Areas
 - scientific areas
 - historical and archaeological areas
 - Intensive Recreation Development Areas
 - Extensive Recreation Areas
 - Administrative Areas

Section II - Support Data Continued

- C. MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS
- D. RECREATION NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATIONS
- E. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

Section III - Appendix

- A.. State Historical Society Relationship
- B. Council review, recommendations and Department responses

Tower Hill State Park
Conceptual Master Plan (Preliminary)

Section I - Actions:

A. Goal and Objectives

1. Goal: To preserve and protect the historical, natural and scenic resources of Tower Hill State Park while providing compatible public recreation and interpretative opportunities.
2. Objectives:
 - a. To provide for and to maintain the significant historical entities of Tower Hill State Park and to encourage the historical interpretation of these entities and their environs.
 - b. To maintain the existing day-use recreational facilities to provide for approximately 80,000 visitations annually.
 - c. To provide for a sub-area office consisting of a public contact area, office space for a park manager, fire control personnel, wildlife manager and fish manager. This facility should also provide for a shop, park equipment and vehicle storage and fire control equipment storage.
 - d. To provide for a limited camping facility consisting of 8-12 campsites which would provide for "walk in", bicycle-in and canoe-in tent camping. This facility is intended to serve approximately 5,000 visitors annually.
 - e. To continue to protect and preserve the biological entities of the park.
 - f. To encourage non-consumptive forms of recreation such as hiking, nature interpretation, picnicking, canoeing and camping.
3. Additional Benefits

The park, due to its close physical association with Mill Creek and the Wisconsin River, also lends itself for use relating to small mammal, amphibian, bird and insect study. In addition, the area is popular for experiencing fall colorama. Further benefits are anticipated because of the new sub-area office, which is to be constructed at the park and because of the adjacent Helena Marsh Unit of the Lower Wisconsin River Wildlife Area.

B. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

1. Property Development Proposal

It is proposed to develop this historical park into a facility which will accommodate a new combination building consisting of a sub-area office (1640 sq. ft.), a new shop/storage/fire control/storage building (4,000 sq. ft.), 600-700 feet of new asphalt roadway, a 10-15 car parking lot for office related visits and employee use and to develop a self-guided nature trail along an existing park trail. Additional development will consist of removing the existing park office/contact station, razing the old barn foundation, and removing a 500 gallon underground gasoline storage tank from its present location. In addition, the existing 22-unit family campground will be "scaled down" to 812 campsites which will provide for "walk-in" type tent camping primarily for canoeists and bicyclists. Motor vehicle drivers wishing to camp at Tower Hill will be required to park in the day-use parking lot and carry their camping equipment in. (Fig. 8)

The existing sub-area office (ranger station) which is located in downtown Spring Green, Wisconsin will be put up for sale and sold once the new facilities are available at Tower Hill State Park.

2. Land Acquisition, Subsequent Development and Major Management Recommendations

a. Land Acquisition

Under this plan about 382 acres of lowlands within the existing park boundary will become part of the recently created Helena Marsh Unit of the lower Wisconsin Wildlife Area.

Within the proposed park boundary the acreage goal for Lower Hill State Park contains about 76.5 acres and the acquisition is 100% complete at this time.

The proposed boundary changes are outlined in Figure 7.

b. Development

(1) Support Facilities

Development at Tower Hill will focus on the construction of a new, re-located entrance road, a combination sub-area office building/park contact station and a heated shop/vehicle storage building for the park and fire control functions. (Fig. 8)

Roads

The new entrance/exit road will be located west of the existing entrance/exit road and will connect with the existing park road system in the general vicinity of the existing canoe launching site. The road will serve the new combination sub-area office building/park contact station - shop/vehicle storage building as well as providing visitor vehicles access to the park. Safety will be improved because of the re-location, as site distance will be improved in both directions along CTH "C". (Figure 8)

The existing park entrance road will be closed to traffic once the new park entrance road and area office/park contact station are completed. Access to the existing parking lot will be via existing park roads (Figure 8). It is recommended that a detailed study be conducted to determine the feasibility of removing the existing park road from public vehicular use and re-routing it parallel to CTH "C" between the new entrance and the existing parking lot. This could be done in conjunction with the new entrance development.

Should the re-routing of the park road be deemed feasible, the vehicular traffic within the park will be greatly improved as traffic will be able to follow a more direct route to the parking area and also will be moved to the edge of the park environment rather than passing directly through it.

Buildings

The new sub-area office building/park contact station will provide for a public contact lobby area, office space for the park manager, fire control personnel, wildlife manager and fish manager. The building will also provide for drive up access to further allow for sticker sales, information and other public contact related activities.

The building will be heated with an L.P. gas or oil-fired forced air system. The implementation of a secondary heating system utilizing wood fuel or solar power will be investigated.

The shop/storage section of the building will be primarily shared by park and fire control functions. The shop area, two fire control vehicle parking bays and two other bays will be heated to a minimal standard. (NOTE: the shop area and two bays will occupy the same area of the building.)

One of the parking bays (non-heated) and associated storage space will be assigned to wildlife management for their use.

Associated with this building will be asphalt ramps for building exit/entrance/parking and a drive-through or back-in parking accommodation for the fire control equipment.

Trails

The trail system is complete in its present layout as far as length and location are concerned. A self-guided nature trail will be installed along a portion of the existing trail system and will feature sign posts and placards describing various points of interesting natural phenomenon. (Figure 8)

Additional hiking potential exists in the adjacent Helena Marsh Unit of the Lower Wisconsin River Wildlife Area. There is expected to be no formal development of trails in this area, but hikers could utilize game and hunting trails.

Camping

The present 22 unit family campground is to be re-designated to allow for "walk-in", bicycle-in and canoe-in tent camping only. In addition, the number of campsites is to be reduced to a total of 8 to 12 campsites. The reduction of campsites should have little or no effect on the annual camper days at the park due to the fact that the camping experience will be enhanced and thusly the campground will be more fully utilized by more people.

3. General Timetable for acquisition and development

Land acquisition within the proposed boundary is complete at about 76.5 acres. The development as proposed in this plan should occur at the same time if possible, thus all items should be considered as phase 1 development.

4. General estimated costs for development operations and maintenance:

a. development

1640 s.f. office/contact station w/basement (\$75/s.f.)	\$123,000
4000 s.f. shop/storage building (\$42/s.f.)	168,000
600+ ft. new road (1-way and 2-way)	30,000
10+ car parking (staff, office visitor)	4,500
Self guided nature trail	1,800
Total in 1980 dollars	\$327,300

b. operations and maintenance

Operations in the park consists of:

1. Providing historical and natural interpretation
2. Providing services to day-use visitors and campers
3. Providing law enforcement
4. Maintaining the site and facilities on site

The park is currently being managed by the Governor Dodge Work Unit manager. Governor Dodge, Blue Mound, Wyalusing and Tower Hill State Parks are within the work unit.

A full-time park ranger and two LTE employees who work during the summer use season are also assigned to Tower Hill.

Annual Cost Approximation (1979 Figures)

1. permanent park ranger	\$13,827.00
2. LTE employees	4,000.00
2,000 and 3,000 lines	4,000.00
TOTAL	\$21,827.00

Cost figures are not included for supervision and administration by the superintendent as he is involved in management at several properties.

Once the sub-area office is relocated in the park, a seasonal secretary position will be needed. This position will serve as secretary for the entire sub-area office. Additional duties assigned this individual will most likely involve some park public contact work.

5. Other Considerations

Some existing park lands (i.e. those north of Mill Creek and east of the proposed park boundary; figure 7) are being transferred to Wildlife Management as part of the Helena Marsh Unit of the Lower Wisconsin River Wildlife Area. The Tower Hill Bottoms Scientific Area will be included in this transfer with the exception of a small portion of the scientific area which is located south of Mill Creek and within the park boundary (Fig. 9).

C. LOCATION AND DEVELOPMENT MAPS

1. Location Maps

- a. County (Fig. 1)
- b. State (Fig. 2)
- c. Regional locator in miles (Fig. 3)

2. Development Maps

Natural Features

- a. Soils (Fig. 4)
- b. Geology (Fig. 5)
- c. Forest Recon (Fig. 6)

Boundaries (Fig. 7)

Ownership (State and Private) (Fig. 7)

Existing and Proposed Development (Fig. 8)

Scientific Area Locator (Fig. 9)

Land Use Potential (Fig. 10)

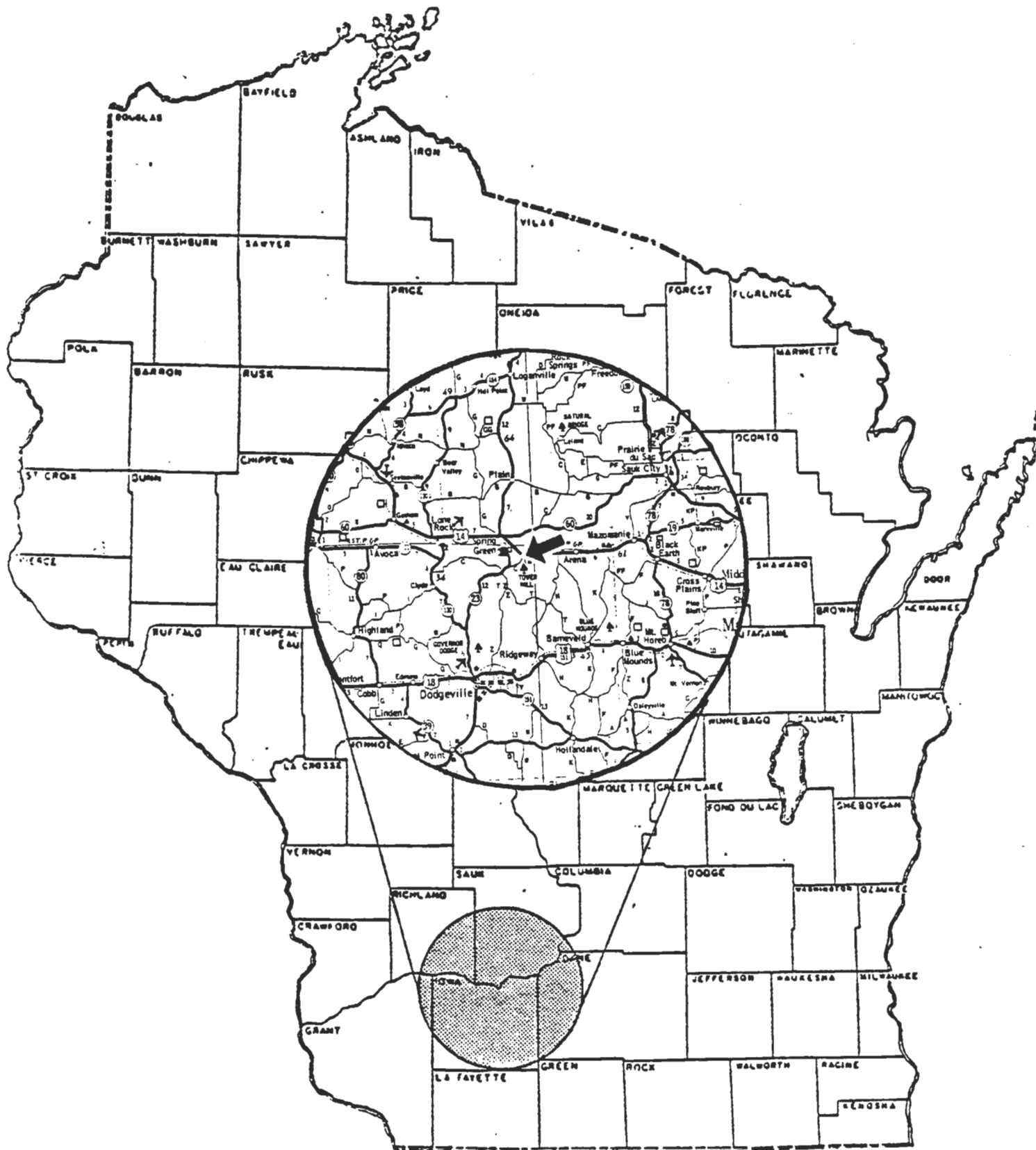


FIGURE 2

State

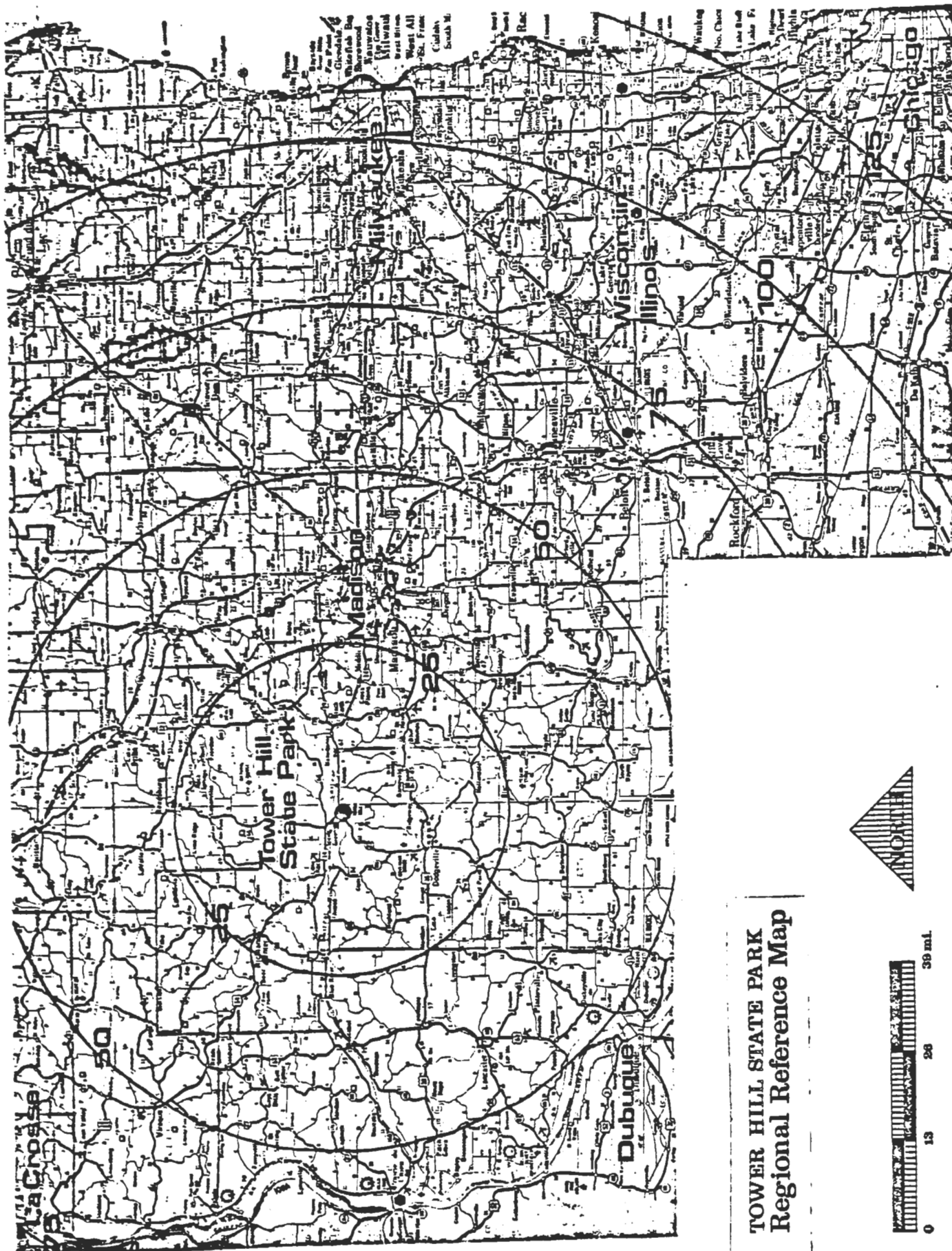


FIGURE 3

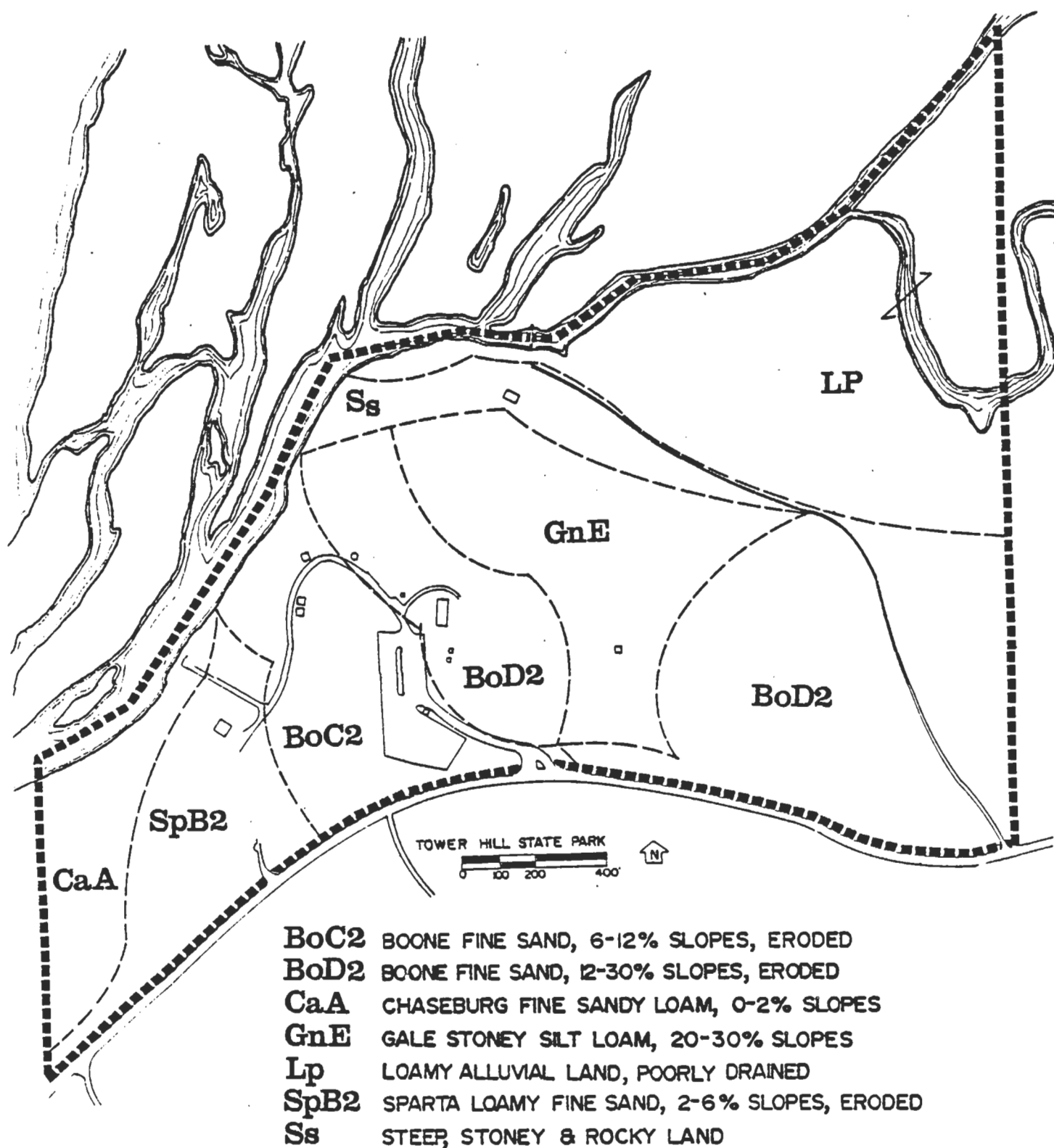
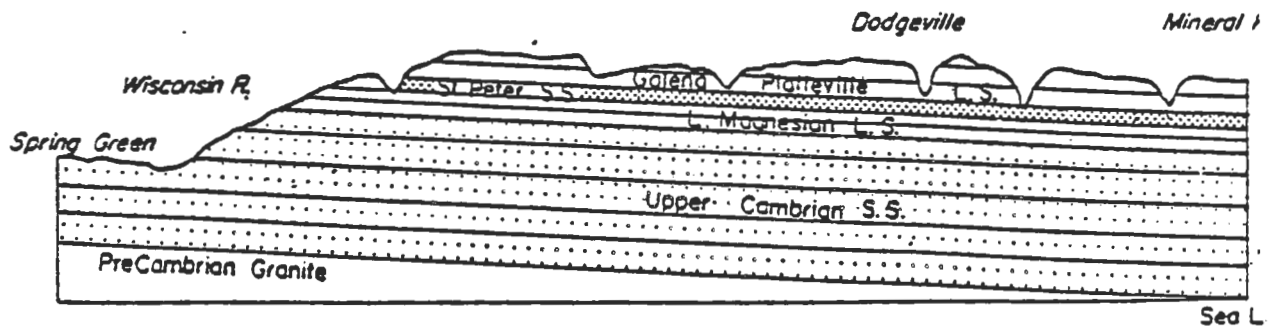


FIGURE 4

Soils

TOWER HILL STATE PARK GEOLOGY

Geologic section, north-south, across central Iowa County.



Approximate range of thickness of formations in Iowa Co.

Formation	Thickness
	Feet
Surface Formation _____	0-300
Niagara Limestone (only on Blue Mounds) _____	0-200
Cincinnata Shale (Maquoketa) _____	0-200
Galena-Platteville (Trenton) Limestone _____	0-300
St. Peter and Lower Magnesian _____	0-250
Upper Cambrian (Potsdam) Sandstone _____	600-900
The Pre-Cambrian Granite _____	

FIGURE 5

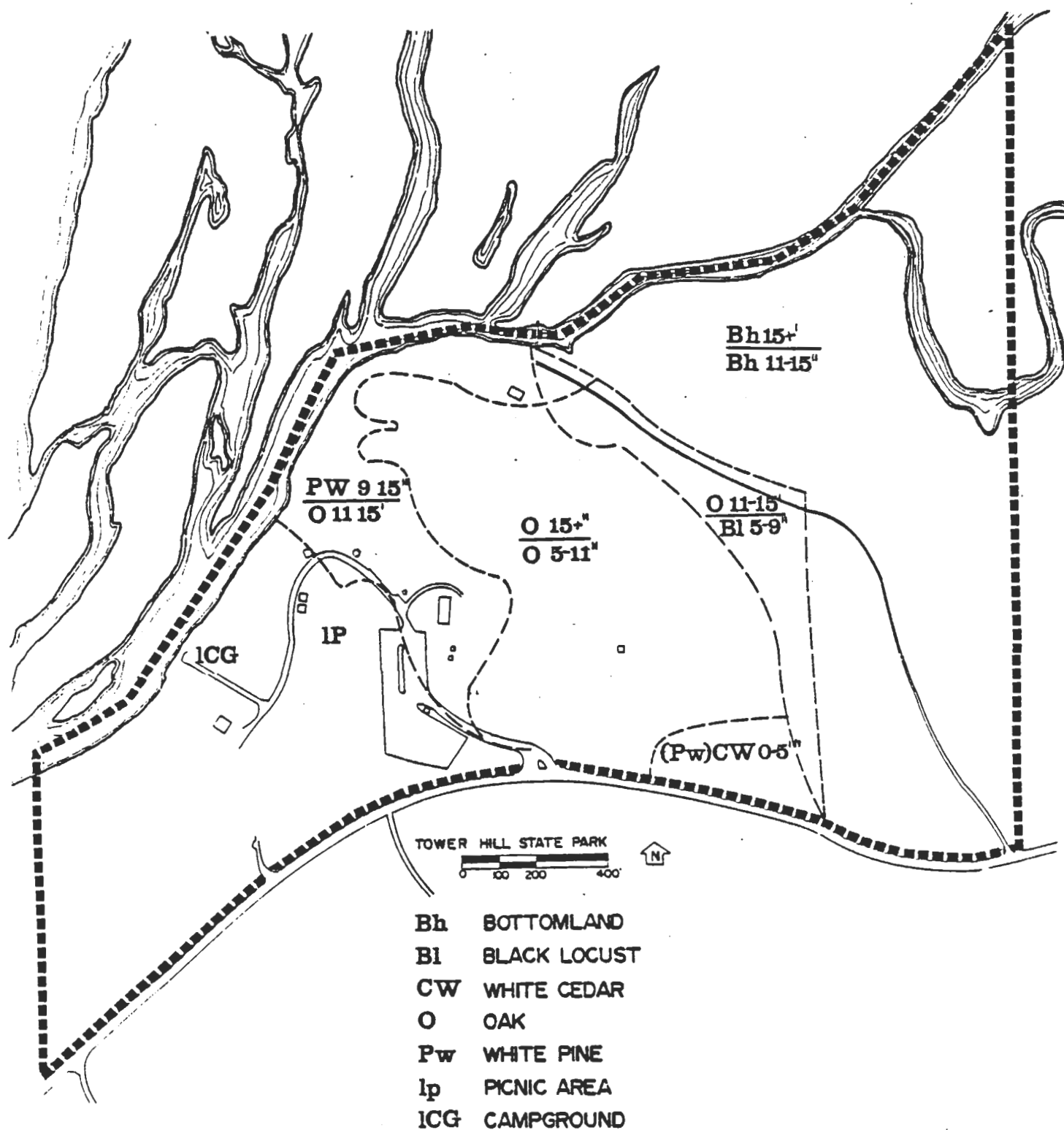
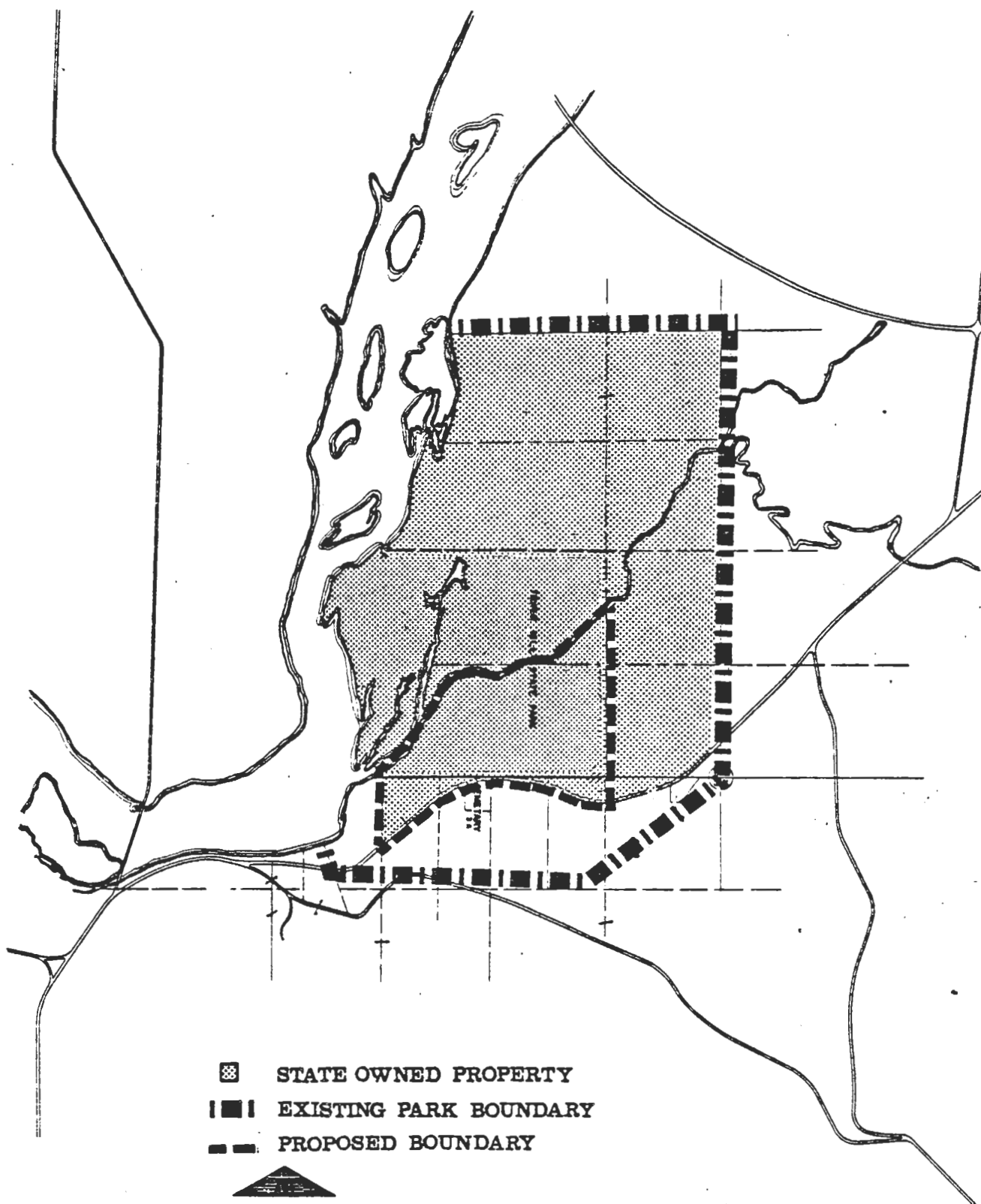


FIGURE 6

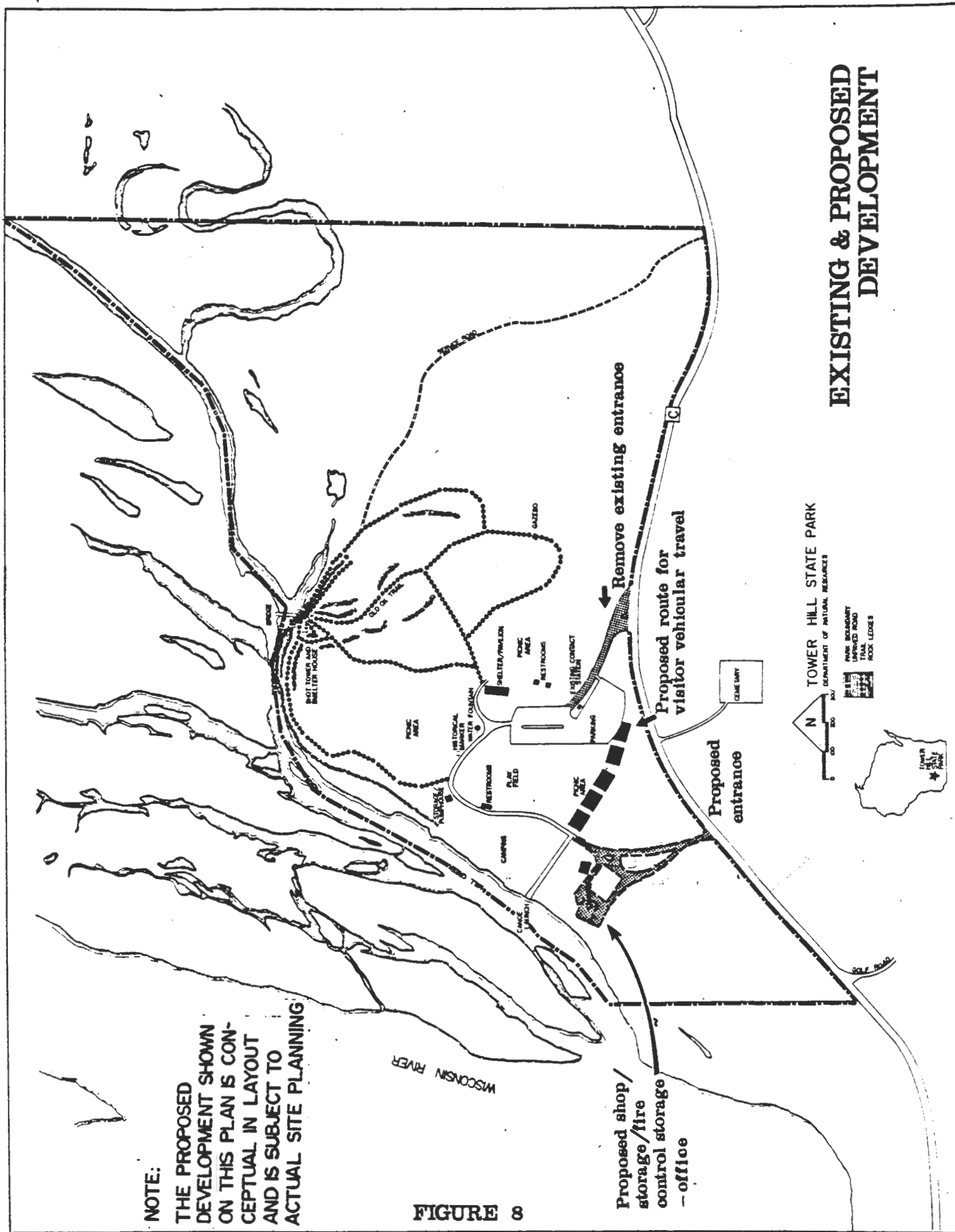


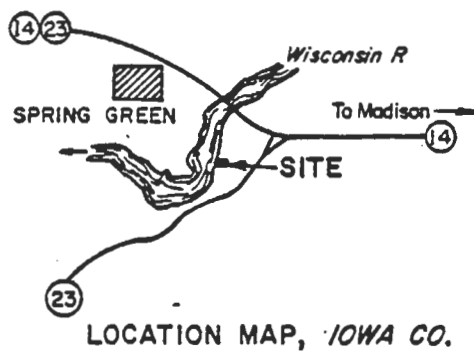
Boundaries

FIGURE 7

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	
BUREAU OF PARKS AND RECREATION	
PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	
TOWER HILL STATE PARK	
LAND OWNERSHIP MAP	
Prepared by	3/24/70
Map of ASHLAND	

EXISTING & PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT





TOWER HILL BOTTOMS SCIENTIFIC AREA

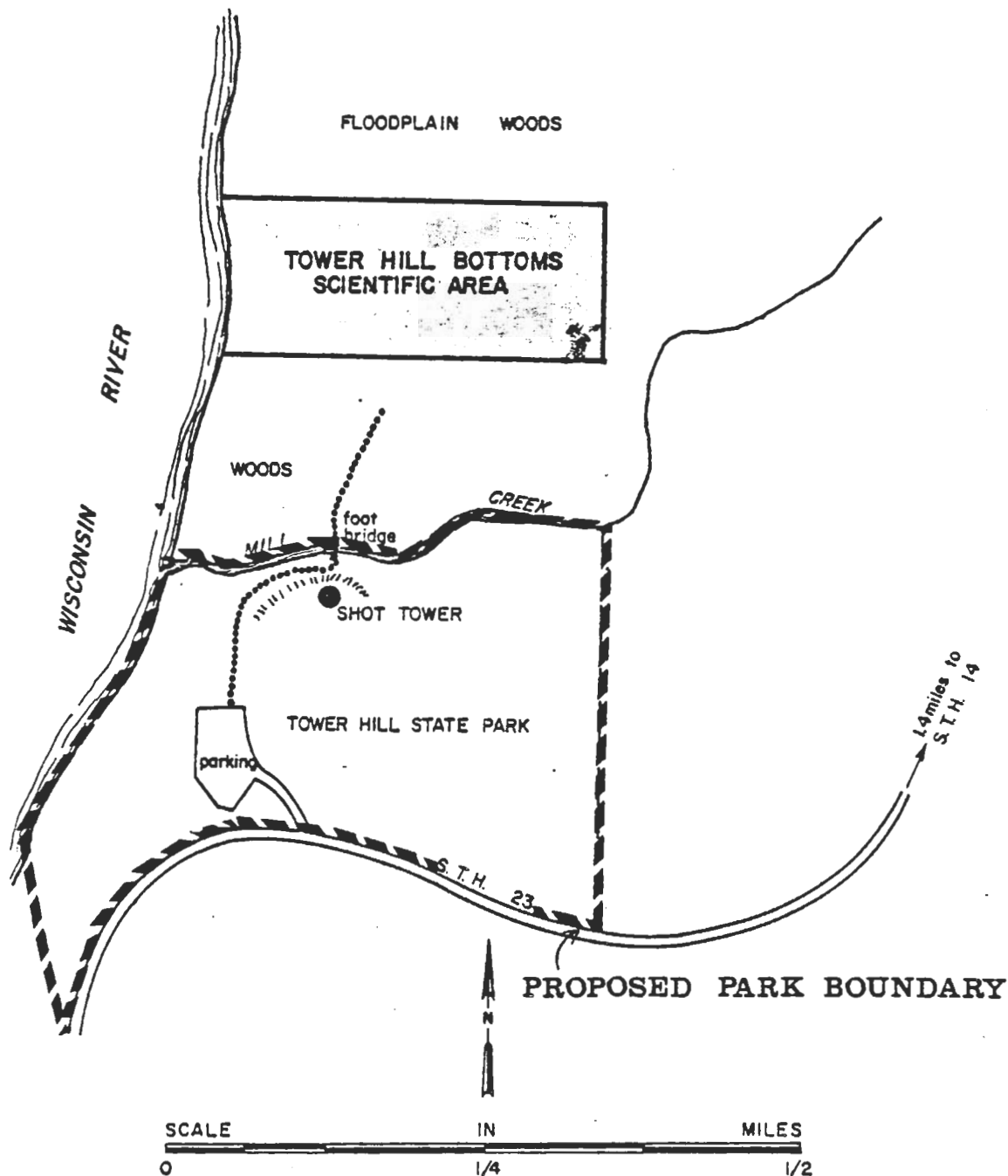
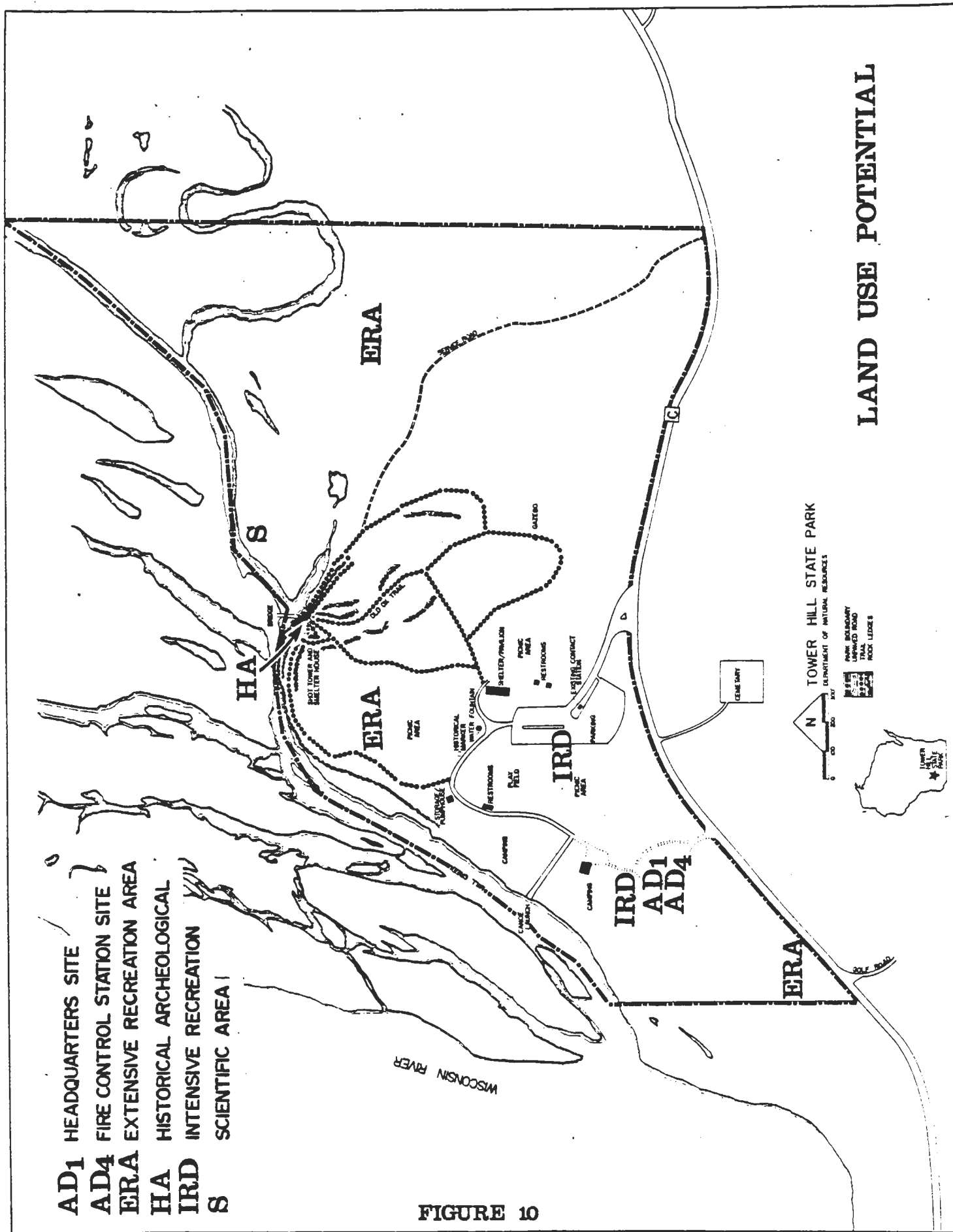


FIGURE 9

Scientific Area Locator



Section II - Support Data

k. Background Information

1. Location

Tower Hill State Park is located in the southwestern part of the state, in Iowa County, on the south bank of the Wisconsin River, about 3 miles southeast of Spring Green. (Figures 1, 2 and 3).

2. Regional Context

The park is relatively close to major population centers of southern Wisconsin. Madison (population 172,769) is the nearest major urban area located about 40 miles east of the park.

Situated to the southeast of the community of Spring Green, the park evokes the distinction of being located in the heart of an area influenced by the famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

Neighbors of the park include the popular American Players Theater, the Wright-Designed Spring Green Restaurant, and Tollesin East, which served as the summer residence, design studio, school and farm for the late architect Wright.

In total, about one half million people live within a one-hour drive of the park.

3. History of Property Creation

In 1922, Edith L. Jones, the widow of Jenkin Lloyd Jones (founder of the Tower Hill Pleasure Company, a summer resort and resting place for ministers, teachers and others) donated all lands and buildings of the Tower Hill Pleasure Company to the State of Wisconsin for use as a state park. The Department of Natural Resources, then the Wisconsin Conservation Department, assumed responsibility for management of the park. In 1938 an additional 52.94 acres was acquired from the State Annuity and Investment Board. This purchase brought the park ownership to about 107.94 acres. The Park (is) operated as a historical park and also provided for picnic facilities, camping and a canoe landing.

In the late 1960's the Department undertook the design and the re-construction of the lead shot tower and the melting house. The project, planned in cooperation with the State Historical Society and financed by ORAP (Outdoor Recreation Action program) funds, began in March 1970 and was completed in 1971. On April 3, 1973 the lead shot tower was added to the National Register of Historic Places and is now considered to be a site of historic importance.

In 1980 a ten acre parcel of land was purchased from the Wisconsin River Development Corporation. This purchase brought the park ownership (within the existing boundary) to its present level of about 117.94 acres.

4. Current Management Activities and Uses

The park is currently operated as a historical park and is open to the public during the months of April through October. Existing development consists of a reproduction (late 1960) of the original melting house and tower which is situated atop the original shot tower shaft, approximately 1.5 miles of hiking trail, 6 acres of picnic/day use area, 22 campsites in the family campground and parking for 112 cars. Additional support facilities consist of about 1,800 feet of park road, a contact station/park office building, a pavilion/shelter, shop/storage shed (very small), toilet facilities and drinking water. In addition, the Tower Hill Bottoms Scientific Area is located partially within the present park boundary and is primarily accessible via park trail. University of Wisconsin - Madison classes and groups are the primary visitor-groups which visit this scientific area.

Attendance figures for this park are as follows:

Table 1

Tower Hill State Park Attendance Records

Year	Number of Campers	Total Visitation
1956	602	54,288
1957	1,567	72,108
1958	2,402	80,566
1960	3,636	51,907
1961	4,156	52,484
1962	6,162	65,931
1963	5,974	59,409
1964	4,820	59,541
1966	3,939	78,625
1967	4,316	53,532
1968	4,705	72,345
1969	4,979	67,847
1970	5,597	76,957
1971	6,359	61,310
1972	6,281	54,021
1973	6,359	61,310
1974	6,415	6,759
1975	6,242	71,222
1976	7,681	70,677
1977	7,419	53,879
1978	5,697	30,396 *
1979	5,617	40,956 *
1980	7,283	31,202

* Automobile counter malfunctioned during these years.

In general, the park is primarily managed to preserve the historical and natural beauty of the site. It also provides information to the general public about the historical role the shot tower played in the development of the area and the state.

Management goals are accomplished by fee ownership of the site, restoration of historic buildings and by providing interpretative displays and literature.

Secondary activities include picnicking, camping, canoeing, hiking, and fishing.

Management of the park is the responsibility of the park ranger II who is stationed at the park and is supervised by the supervisor of the Governor Dodge Work Unit. The Governor Dodge Work Unit also includes Blue Mound, Governor Dodge and Wyalusing State Parks.

5. Ownership

Current park ownership consists of 117.94 acres and includes about 2,500 feet of Wisconsin River frontage. The property goal under existing park boundaries is NRB approved at 417.94 acres.

With NRB (Natural Resources Board) approval of the recommended Tower Hill boundary changes, the proposed acreage goal for the park will be 76.5 acres, and will be 100% complete at this time.

For a complete breakdown of ownership, land transfer and boundary changes and revisions, please refer to Section 1, part B, titled: Acquisition (also Fig. 7).

6. Other

Establishment of the Helena Marsh Unit of the Lower Wisconsin River Wildlife Area and recent acquisition of Wisconsin River Development Corporation lands are creating a new Department-owned wildlife area as a neighbor to the park. The park and wildlife area will share a common boundary along Mill Creek (Figure 7).

The transfer of lands between the park and wildlife area will influence the Tower Hill Bottoms Scientific Area, as it will be located in the wildlife area rather than in the park. This change is not precedent setting and is expected to have no affect whatsoever on the operation of the scientific area.

6. Resource Capability and Inventory

1. Soils, geology and hydrology

Soils

The soils of the bottom land areas are extremely sandy alluvial deposits. They are not well suited for development, subject to erosion and have poor waste disposal capacity because of a relatively high water table. Sparta loamy fine sands are common to the bottom land. The soils of the upland area of the park are moderately thin deposits of silt that overlie clayey material weathered from limestone. They are often stony and rock outcrops are common. Most of the upland has moderately rolling to steep slopes that often limit most forms of development. Examples of the types of soils found on the upland are Chaseburg silt loams, Hutten sand loams, Boone fine sands, and Meridian sandy loams. (Figure 4)

Landform

The park is located at the junction of Mill Creek and the Wisconsin River. It is made up of two very distinctive landforms. The northern two thirds of the park is located on the Wisconsin River bottom lands. It is a low lying area subject to frequent flooding. The southern one third is upland, well drained with relatively steep topography. There are some escarpments especially in the area of the shot tower. The park is an attractive example of a "headland area" of the Wisconsin River Valley. (Figure 5)

Water Resources - Hydrology

The adjoining Wisconsin River and Mill Creek are rich in aquatic life. The more common fish species are smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, numerous minnows and chubs. Mussels, crayfish, turtles, frogs and aquatic insects are also common. The water resources of the park include 1/2 mile of Mill Creek and about 1/2 mile of Wisconsin River.

The Wisconsin River is a large river about 1/4 mile wide. It is quite popular with canoeists, swimmers and fishermen. During the summer months significant numbers of people canoe the river, camping overnight on the broad sand bars. The water quality is good, but at times upstream sources of pollution result in unfavorable odor and an off-taste in fish.

Mill Creek is a small stream about 30 feet wide in the park. It is navigable by canoe. During the summer, water levels are often low and expose muddy banks. The canoe landing located in the park on Mill Creek has had problems with siltation, but small wing dam reflectors were constructed to help keep the canoe landing clear. (Note: These wing dams are in need of additional work as water levels and siltation still present a problem at the landing).

2. Fish and Wildlife

Fish

Fish species present which have management potential include smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, white bass, channel catfish, sauger and some species of panfish. (For the Wisconsin River only.)

Wildlife

Because of the park's two types of habitat, bottom land and upland plus the water resources of the Wisconsin River and Mill Creek, the area has a rich diversity of animal life. The largest mammal in the park is the white-tailed deer. Other furbearers include foxes, skunk, racoon, beaver, opossum, squirrel, mink and muskrat. Some of the less conspicuous mammals include flying squirrels, white footed mouse, deer mouse, meadow mouse, prairie mole, shrews and some six different kinds of bats.

Bird life is equally rich. Some of the resident birds include black-capped chickadee, white breasted nuthatch, bluejay, crow, cardinal, ruffed grouse, owls, along with five kinds of woodpeckers, including the pileated woodpecker. In addition, many spring migrants pass through the park.

There are no known endangered or threatened species which inhabit the park on a regular basis however, bald eagles are often seen in the area during the late fall.

Due to the small size of the park, wildlife management possibilities appear to be limited within the existing and prepared park boundaries. The Helena Marsh Unit of the Lower Wisconsin River Wildlife Area located to the north and east of the park, however, appears to offer considerable opportunities for wildlife management.

3. Vegetative Cover

The bottom lands are covered with a lush growth of lowland hardwood forest. The overstory consists of silver maple, American and red elm, cottonwood, swamp white oak and river birch. Most of the trees are quite large with high canopy and are impressive sites. The understory has red osier dogwood, button bush, prickly ash, wild grape, Virginia creeper, sensitive fern and numerous wild flowers which add to the area's rich appearance.

The upland hardwoods have an overstory of oaks, hickories, black cherry and elms with an occasional white pine near the sandstone bluffs. Gray dogwood, American hazelnut, blackberry, poison ivy, prickly ash, about six kinds of ferns and wild flowers such as bloodroot, hepatica, wood geranium, boneberry and jack-in-the-pulpit contribute to a very interesting understory. (Figure 6)

The sandstone cliff areas are colonized by many different kinds of mosses and lichens.

The Tower Hill Bottoms Scientific Area which lies partially within the existing park boundary and will lie adjacent to the proposed park boundary is noted for its outstanding primary and secondary biotic communities, dominants, understory and rare species, topography, soils, geology and archaeology. Herein lies undisturbed examples of wet and wet-mesic forest types in the Wisconsin River floodplain. The scientific area is comprised of 25 acres. (Figure 9)

Potential for vegetative management is limited due to the small acreage involved, steep topographical conditions and very wet lowlands.

Endangered and threatened wild plant species are not known to occur within the park boundaries. However, a complete biological inventory of the park should be conducted as soon as funding permits.

4. Historical and Archeological Features

History of the Area

The first people to inhabit southwest Wisconsin were Archaic Indians. They were nomadic hunters and gatherers who lived in the area some 7,000 years ago. Evidence of their presence has been found in the hill country to the south of the park. In more recent times a number of Indian tribes lived in or visited the area. They included Kickapoo, Sauk, Fox, Sioux and Illinois. Even more distant tribes probably visited the area because the Wisconsin River was one of the most important travel routes at that time.

The first white men to pass through the area were Marquette and Joliet. They descended the Wisconsin River in 1673, on their journey to the junction of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers. The area then saw a succession of fur trappers, traders, missionaries, soldiers, miners and farms occupying the area.

General Chronology of Park History

The history of Tower Hill State Park is closely tied to the development of lead mining in southwestern Wisconsin. The shot tower now reconstructed at Tower Hill State Park, played a unique and important role in the development of Wisconsin. Utilized to produce lead shot, the verticle shaft (tunnel) is 120 feet long and the wood tower, which is attached to the side of a cliff adds another 60 feet, making the total drop 180 feet. It is the only shot tower ever constructed in Wisconsin and served as a stimulus for the development of trade between the western parts of the State and the cities of Milwaukee and Green Bay.

- September 1831, work began on site and construction materials were gathered. Digging of the shot shaft began.
- 1832, operation suspended due to Black Hawk War.
- 1833, construction of the shot tower, melting house, shot shaft and finishing house were completed and shot making began. A stone and lumberyard were opened near the shot tower on the site of the Village of Old Helena.
- 1835, a store, coppershop, blacksmith drop, log barracks and a five-story warehouse were built. The next year a post office was established at Helena.
- 1839, the shot tower was temporarily closed.
- 1842, the melting house burned to the ground in February. Shot was melted in the open air until the house could be rebuilt the following spring.
- 1847-1852, a period of intermittent operation.
- 1852, a new finishing house was constructed and housed steam powered machinery which allowed for increased production.
- The mid-1850's were the most prosperous times for both Helena and the tower.
- 1857, the railroad by-passed Helena and the financial panic of 1857 dealt the final blow to both Helena and the tower. The village was abandoned for good.
- 1861, the shot tower was abandoned for good.
- 1864, all machinery and buildings were removed from the site by this time and the lands were sold for taxes (\$46.85).
- 1889, the land was purchased by Jenkin Lloyd Jones (the Tower Hill Pleasure Co., Inc.) who planned on establishing a summer resort and resting place for ministers, teachers and others.
- 1895, the Tower Hill Pleasure Co., Inc., as the development was called had built a pavilion, dining hall, icehouse, stables, servants quarters, six private cottages, and three "long houses". The pavilion is still being used as a shelter house in the park.

The Tower Hill Pleasure Company continued operation until the death of Jenkin Lloyd Jones. In 1922, Edith L. Jones, the widow of Jenkin Lloyd Jones, donated the land (55 acres) and buildings to the State of Wisconsin to be used as a State Park. In 1938 an additional 52.94 acres were purchased from the State Annuity and Investment Board. This purchase brought park ownership to about 107.94 acres. The Department of Natural Resources, then the Wisconsin Conservation Department, assumed responsibility for the management of the Park. It was operated as a historical park and provided picnic facilities, camping and a canoe landing.

In the late 1960's the Department undertook the reconstruction of the shot tower and the melting house. The project, planned in cooperation with the State Historical Society and financed by ORAP (Outdoor Recreation Action Program) funds, began in March, 1970 and was completed in 1971. On April 3, 1973 the shot tower was added to the National Register of Historic Places and is now considered a site of national historic importance.

In 1980 a 10 acre parcel was purchased from the Wisconsin River Development Corporation. This purchase brought the park acreage to its present level of about 117.94 acres.

The State Historical Society has been contacted in regard to proposed development and will be re-contacted prior to any scheduling of future major development.

5. Land Use Potential (Figure 10)

Scientific Areas

Recommended by John T. Curtiss to be designated as Scientific Area, the Tower Hill Bottoms Scientific Area is noted for its undisturbed examples of wet and wet-mesic forest types, its outstanding primary and secondary biotic communities, dominants, understory and rare plant species, topography, soils, geology and archeology. Total acreages for this scientific area is about 25 acres. About two acres will be inside the proposed park boundary.

Historical and Archeological Areas

The shot tower has been designated as a site of national historic importance and was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 3, 1973.

The construction of the reproduction of the original melting house and shot tower located atop the existing shot shaft and related displays and exhibits lend the facility to effective presentation and interpretation.

Numerous archeological digs have been taking place at Tower Hill State Park over the years, the results of which have not been extremely significant. About 5 acres of the Tower Hill property is devoted to this use.

Intensive Recreation Development Areas

The existing IRD (Intensive Recreation Development Areas) at Tower Hill consists of a 6-acre picnic/day-use area, a 112 car parking lot, a 1.5 acre 22 campsite family campground, a canoe launching facility, a shelterhouse, toilet and water facilities. The acreage total for the IRD is about 7.5 acres.

Extensive Recreation Areas

The ERA (Extensive Recreation Area) at Tower Hill is primarily well-wooded and is developed only to the extent of allowing for 1.5 miles of hiking trails, 3/4 miles of service road and some riverbottoms and wetlands. The total acreage will be about 54.0 acres.

Administrative Areas

A ten acre site located in the southwestern corner of the Tower Hill property is designated to become the new park entrance. A sub-area office/park office is to be constructed, as is a new shop/storage/fire control station (land use classification (AD₁, AD₄, AD_g).

C. Management Problems

Theft and Vandalism

During the off-season the park has experienced some theft and vandalism. This occurs during the winter months when no permanent personnel are stationed at the park. Some vandalism has also occurred during the summer use season after 11 p.m. when no park personnel are in the park.

Storage/Service Building

The storage/service building is presently a very small building large enough to store lawn mowers, a few handtools and some toilet cleaning supplies. This building also doubles as the water pump house which supplies water to the park. This structure is totally inadequate due to the size and location directly adjacent to the campground and day use area.

Pavilion

The park pavilion is an enclosed structure which is utilized by park visitors seeking refuge from inclement weather and from mosquitos when they present a problem. In addition, the pavilion is also used by area square dance groups for their dances. The square dancing is an historical use of the pavilion as this activity has been more or less ongoing for about 40 some years.

The structure itself is in need of repair. At this time it is unknown whether this repair is minor or major in nature and we are currently auditing an engineering survey which will outline the extent of repairs necessary. Should the necessary repairs be minor, the building will be repaired. Should necessary repairs be major, the possibility exists that the building will be taken down.

Barn Foundation

The previous shop/storage building was an old barn located on the property. The structure was dismantled and removed from the site, except for the sandstone foundation and a 500 gallon underground gasoline storage tank a few years ago.

The foundation will be removed and the gasoline storage tank also will be removed as soon as it is feasible. The stone taken from the barn foundation will be stored at Governor Dodge State Park.

Entrance Road

The entrance road poses some problem because of its location. It is located on a downhill stretch of County Highway "C" where site distance is only about 600'. The entrance was located there because it was the only point where the park boundary is contiguous with the County Highway "C" road right-of-way. County Highway "C" is an effective "short cut" route between U.S. Highway 14 and State Highway 23.

Camping

The proximity of the camping area to the day-use area often leads to conflicts such as congestion, reduced aesthetic quality and excessive noise.

Flooding

During the spring and early summer, some of the lower campsites (near Mill Creek) experience flooding and thus are unusable depending on water levels during the summer use season.

D. Recreation Needs and Justification

The information contained in this section reflects information taken from the State of Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan - 1977 and the Iowa County Outdoor Recreation Plan - 1976.

Recreation Needs and Supply

Tower Hill State Park is located in the Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Planning Region 3. This region is located in southwestern Wisconsin and includes Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk Counties. The region is predominantly rural with 70% of the population living in rural areas. However, the region is close to populous centers such as Madison, Janesville, Beloit and cities in Illinois. The region is also "on the way" to other recreation areas of the state. There are 14 state parks and 9 county parks in the region. There are also 26 public hunting and fishing areas in the region, mostly located along the Wisconsin River. The region is also fairly scenic.

SCORP addresses all forms of outdoor recreation in relation to supply, demand and need. For the Tower Hill State Park situation, this section will deal only with those types of recreation that this facility is able to relate to.

1. Camping

- a. Developed (those campsites accessible by automobile and including improvements such as drinking water, picnic tables and toilets).

Nine of the region's 13 state parks provide camping opportunities. The region provides 3,698 or about 8% of the state's developed campsites. Private enterprise supplies 58% of this resource. State parks provide about 32%. County, municipal and federal properties supply the remaining percentage. The quality of camping varies, but is generally good.

Demand in Region 3 shows that it supports about 12% of the state's developed camping. The most recent estimates indicate that demand is 40% greater than available supply. On a seasonal weekend, non-resident camping participation is more than two times greater than resident participation.

- b. Primitive camping (those campsites not accessible by motor vehicle). Improvements are generally limited to a cleared tent site and a fire ring. In more intensively used areas, pit toilets and drinking water may also be provided.

Region 3 contains 68 primitive campsites, approximately 14% of the state total. Twelve of those are located at New Glarus Woods State park. The remainder on county- owned lands.

The region's demand for primitive camping is more than two times the available supply. As a whole, the region supplies 5% of the state's inventoried primitive campsites.

2. Picnicking

Region 3 provides 9% of the state's supply of picnic tables and 7% of the state's supply of picnic area. The state and municipal units of government are the major providers of picnic tables in the region. The county and state are the major providers of picnic areas in the region.

Over 32,200 picnicking occasions occur per average weekend day, or 8% of the state's total picnicking take place in Region 3. The levels of picnicking participation for the residents and nonresidents alike are above average. In fact, picnicking is ranked the most popular activity by residents in the region. Residents account for 75% of the picnicking occasions, with the remaining being generated by non-residents.

Additional picnic facilities are needed to satisfy the growing demand within the region. The demand for picnic areas indicates that a 250% increase over present levels will be needed to meet the projected needs of the region by 1985.

3. Hiking

Within the region hiking is classified into two categories: long distance or cross- country and casual or short distance hiking. SCORP is primarily concerned with the long distance hiking requirements for the region, but indicate that more hiking facilities will be needed in both categories in order to meet future (1985 and beyond) needs.

4. Canoeing

Supply. Region 3 has 415 kilometers (258 miles) of recognized canoe streams that include the Pecatonica, Kickapoo and Baraboo Rivers. In addition, other canoeing opportunities exist. The backwaters of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers are examples of such areas.

Most of the canoeable waters in Region 3 traverse diverse scenery. The Baraboo River, in particular, flows through some areas of remarkable scenery, most notably the Rock Springs area. Navigation of these streams generally does not require a high level of canoeing expertise. Public access in Region 3 is reasonably good. About 14% of the state's total public developed and undeveloped canoe access sites are found on designated streams in Region 3 (see Table 21).

Demand. Region 3 generates 4,000 canoeing occasions per average seasonal weekend day or 6% of the state's canoeing participation. Residents account for 52% of the region's canoeing participation; nonresidents account for the remainder. Residents do not participate heavily in canoeing since most of the canoeable bodies of water can also be traversed with conventional small boats which eliminates the stimulus for canoeing.

Need. Development of nine additional public developed and undeveloped canoe access sites is required to provide maximum access on designated canoe streams in Region 3. Shoreline protection along the Kickapoo River, in particular, and better access on the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers are needed if their potential for canoeing is to be realized.

5. Fishing

Supply. The surface waters of Region 3 are well suited to both recreational and commercial fishing. The Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers provide the majority of fishing opportunities. Both rivers provide fishing experiences unavailable in other areas of the Midwest. Large areas of state and federal land bordering these waterways contribute to the uniqueness of the experience.

The region's rivers suffer from various types and degrees of pollution, which are usually detrimental to fish populations. New sewage treatment facilities have helped to improve the quality of many of the region's rivers. Use of rivers as recreation resources could be further increased if programs to improve land use practices in the region were initiated and carried through.

Demand. Regional resident fishing participation is above the state average and a large percentage of this activity takes place outside of the region. Out-of-state residents fishing in the region equal the number of local participants.

Need. The problem of accommodating increased fishing participation can be alleviated by improving and increasing public access to the fishery (e.g., boat launching sites, improved transportation systems), by improving water quality and by improving fishery management techniques. To minimize the disparity between the supply of and the demand for quality surface water resources in this region, governmental agencies must be committed to preserving lake and river frontage wherever it is available.

6. Scenic and Historic Resources

Some of the more significant scenic recreational resources in Region 3 include the Wisconsin Dells, the Coulee Region, and the Mississippi, Wisconsin, Pecatonica, and Sugar Rivers.

Two of the ten scenic roadways identified in the State Scenic and Historic Resources section are included in Region 3. They are the Great River Road along the Mississippi River and the Wisconsin River route.

A number of region's historic sites are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In Iowa County, specifically in the Tower Hill/Spring Green area, there are three sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These landmarks are the shot tower at Tower Hill State Park (state significance), Taliesin (summer home of architect Frank Lloyd Wright) (national significance), and the Unity Chapel (state significance). Other sites in Region 3 considered to have architectural, historical and/or archeological significance are listed in the Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places. Two of the region's natural areas, Abraham's Woods (Green)* and Wyalusing Hardwood Forest (Grant), are listed in the National Register of Natural Landmarks.

The region's scenic and historic resources require protection by all units of government, private individuals and associations to maintain their intrinsic value and attraction for residents and nonresidents alike. The resource base, for historic and natural area sites in particular, is essentially nonrenewable; these resources if lost or destroyed cannot be replaced. It is essential, therefore, that these resources be protected.

Protection in the form of preserving a resource and protection from changes in land use which would destroy a scenic view or historic site are required. A scenic roadways system is also needed in Region 3. An access control program such as that provided by Wisconsin Statutes 84.25 and 83.027 should be combined with scenic easements to protect valuable travel corridors. The Department of Transportation's Rustic Roads program provides another potential alternative for counties of the region desiring to develop a scenic roadways system.

*Determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Natural Landmarks.

E. Analysis of Alternatives

Tower Hill State Park should be managed as a historical park. Its primary function should be the preservation, restoration and interpretation of the historical aspects of the site. Care should be taken to protect the aesthetic and natural qualities of the site. Day-use facilities should be provided for the convenience and safety of the park visitor. The park should be operated at about current use levels.

ALTERNATIVES

- Alternative #1: Do nothing - continue to operate the park status quo.
- Alternative #2: Operate as a historical day-use park at about current levels of use. Work toward improving the quality of recreational experience and provide better supervision and protection of park resources.
- Alternative #3: Operate the park as a major destination type park with historical interpretation, day-use and camping as its theme.
- Alternative #4: Incorporate the park into a larger management scheme that would include the lower Wisconsin River.

ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

- #1. The park could continue to operate as it has in the past. It is economically viable as indicated earlier in the text. However, this course of action would not remedy management problems, previously outlined.
- #2. Operating the park as a historical day-use park would be compatible with past uses. It would provide protection of the historic and scenic resources of the park and upgrade the quality of recreation by removing camping in what is largely a day-use area. All of the management problems outlined earlier could be adequately addressed within the context of this alternative.

Reducing the number of campsites from 22 to 8-12 campsites would probably reduce the level of park use by about 10%. The prospects of relocating the campsites on existing acreage do not seem likely given its steep topography.

- #3. Operating the park as a major destination recreation area with historical interpretation, picnicking, hiking and camping does not seem practical.

Campground development could not be accommodated within the existing park boundaries. Additional lands could be acquired for campground development, but the only suitable land lies south of County Highway "C". This would result in the park being split into two major use areas divided by a public highway. In addition, Governor Dodge State Park, located 10 miles to the south, is a major destination park. A better way to accommodate recreational campers is by encouraging private campground development in the area.

- #4. The whole lower Wisconsin River is currently under study for possible addition into the national scenic river system. This program is intended to protect rivers that have scenic value from development and to provide recreational opportunities. The park could be incorporated into such a program, serving two functions: (1) a historical point of interest and (2) protection from development of an important "headland area" along the Wisconsin River corridor. However, potential for large scale recreational development would be limited because the park area lacks suitable sites to accommodate camping or a major river access point. Also, it is unclear at this time what will be the scope of the Lower Wisconsin River Project, and management of the park under this alternative would have to be delayed until the project is defined.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

The management and development alternative that seems to be the most appropriate for the park is that of Alternative #2.

Section III - Appendix

- A. State Historical Society Relationship
- B. Council comments, recommendations, and Department responses



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Anthony S. Earl
Secretary

December 13, 1979

IN REPLY REFER TO: 144j

Mr. Richard Erney
State Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Mr. Erney:

At Tower Hill State Park, located in Iowa County near Spring Green, Wisconsin, we have an old barn foundation which was constructed sometime around the turn of the century.

Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and as amended since that time, I am asking if you have any interest in this structure. If you have no interest, we plan on removing it.

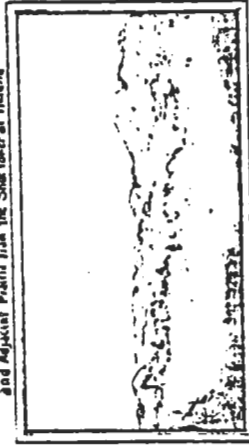
Enclosed is a map showing the location of this structure at Tower Hill State Park. Should you require any additional information please call Mr. Steve Lewis, Park Planner, at 266-7617.

Sincerely,
Bureau of Parks & Recreation

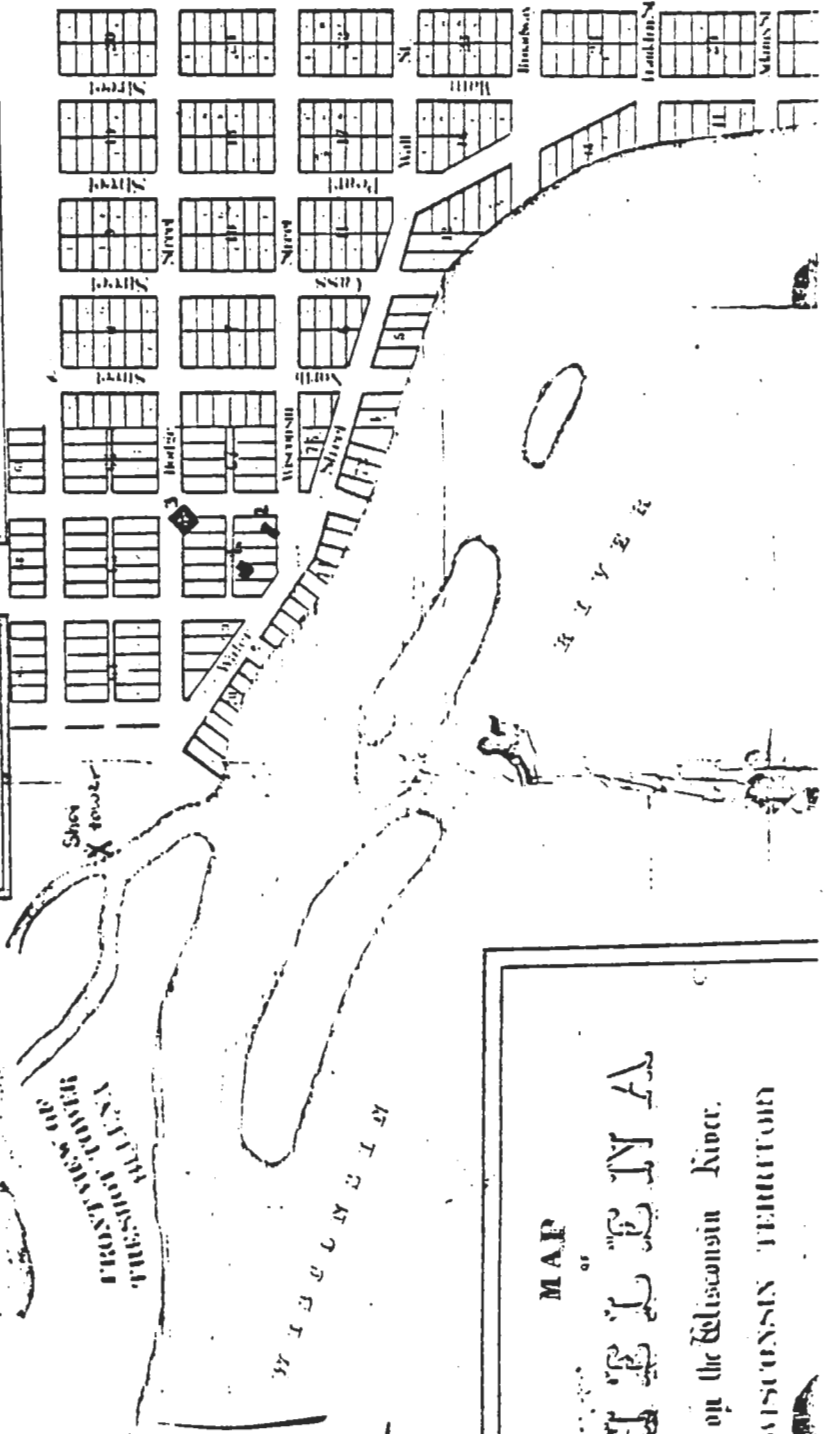
D. J. Mackie
Director

EHC.

WEST VIEW OF THE WISCONSIN RIVER
and Adjacent Profile from the Shot Tower at Helena



1. dwelling house
2. store
3. barn



MAP
of
HELENA
on the Wisconsin River.
WISCONSIN TERRITORY



State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Carroll D. Besadny
Secretary

March 10, 1981

BOX 7921
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707

IN REPLY REFER TO: 1440

Mr. Richard W. Dexter
State Historical Society
Historic Preservation Division
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Mr. Dexter:

Thank you for reviewing the Tower Hill State Park Master Plan and providing us with your comments.

We agree that Tower Hill does have considerable archeological potential and that the historical interpretation program could be greatly expanded. However, in view of the funding problems that our Department is presently experiencing and which will probably continue, we feel that the master plan does take a realistic approach to what can be expected to take place in the way of development and management within the next ten years at Tower Hill.

In the meantime, we will continue to conduct archeological surveys of all proposed construction sites at Tower Hill as we are presently doing for the new sub-area office site.

The several errors in the master plan text have been corrected per your comments.

Again, thank you for reviewing the Tower Hill Master Plan.

Sincerely,
Bureau of Parks & Recreation


D. G. Weizenicker
Deputy Director

cc: J. L. Treichel - P&R/4
→ D. J. Kulhanek - P&R/4



MAR 11 1981

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

March 4, 1981

Mr. Donald J. Mackie, Director
Bureau of Parks and Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

SHSW: 64-81
Re: Tower Hill State Park

Dear Mr. Mackie:

We have reviewed the draft master plan for Tower Hill State Park and offer the following comments for your consideration.

We concur with the Department's statement that Tower Hill's fragile historic and natural resources are "essentially nonrenewable; these resources, if lost or destroyed, cannot be replaced. It is essential, therefore, that these resources be protected" (p.45). We also concur with the statement that the park's primary mission should continue to be the "preservation, restoration and interpretation of the historical aspects of the site" (p. 46).

In view of the above, we were disappointed to find that so little of the master plan addressed the preservation and interpretation of the park's historic features. If the DNR is going to reach its expressed goals for Tower Hill State Park, it will be necessary first to have an adequate inventory of the park's archeological and historical resources. We believe that the park has tremendous archeological potential, and urge the DNR to consider surveying the entire site.

Interpretation at Tower Hill State Park could be expanded to include not only the shot tower, but the village of Helena as well. As described in Kim Peter's letter of February 15, 1980, to Steve Lewis (included in the appendix to the master plan), the history of the village of Helena is inextricably linked to that of the shot tower. With further historical research the interpretative program at the park could be significantly expanded at minimal cost. An expanded interpretative program would greatly increase the attractiveness of the park to local school groups, etc. and is consistent with the preferred management alternative for the park's future operation.

Finally, there are several minor errors in the wording in the text of the master plan concerning historic and archeological sites. The shot tower was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 3, 1973 as being of state (not national) significance. Only Taliesin is a National Historic Landmark; the other sites listed on page 45 as National Landmarks are actually listed on the National Register of Historic Places (a separate entity). The correct reference for the other properties of architectural, historical, and archeological

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

816 STATE STREET · MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706 RICHARD A. ERNEY, DIRECTOR

Mr. Donald J. Mackie

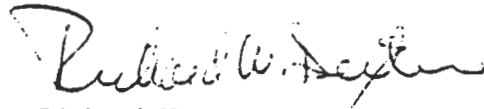
-2-

March 4, 1981

significance in Region 3 should be the Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places, maintained by the State Historical Society, and not the 1973 Preservation Plan (vol. II).

Should you have any questions on this matter, please call me at 608/262-2732.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Dexter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Richard W. Dexter
Compliance Coordinator

RWD:cmh



FEB 19 1980

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

February 15, 1980

Mr. Steve Lewis
Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Parks and Recreation
101 South Webster Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

SHSW: 1601-79
RE: Tower Hill State Park
Old Barn Foundations

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Following our telephone conversation of 5 February 1980 regarding the barn foundations at Tower Hill State Park, I went to the library here at the State Historical Society to do some additional research on the history of the shot tower and the old Village of Helena. The results of this research confirm that the barn foundations are located within the former village as platted in 1837. Furthermore, the style of the barn's construction--coursed cut-stone ground story and wood frame upper story--is similar to that of several other buildings erected in Helena between 1835 and 1860. The exact date of the barn's construction, however, cannot be determined from the data presently available. It is possible that the barn was built post-1860, using materials remaining after the abandonment of the village in the early 1860s.

Portions of the park have been surveyed for archeological material by Dr. Donald E. Thompson and his anthropology students from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The purpose of these surveys was not so much to inventory the park's cultural resources as it was to instruct the students in the rudiments of archeological technique. I have read copies of two of the student reports written for Dr. Thompson's class in May of 1972. While these reports are far from professional, they do establish that potentially significant material is still to be found in the park dating from the occupation of Helena. Dr. Thompson is out of town this week, but when he returns I will contact him regarding other work he and his students have done at Tower Hill State Park.

The history of Helena is inextricably tied to the history of the shot tower. The cyclical booms and busts associated with the lead industry were physically manifest in periods of construction and deterioration in the village. The actual period Helena was occupied was relatively short -- approximately 25 years. This fact does not detract from the town's importance; in fact, from an archeological perspective, this

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

816 STATE STREET · MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706 RICHARD A ERNEY, DIRECTOR

is tremendously significant as it gives archeologists the opportunity to study a community within well defined temporal limits. It is as if the village were a time capsule. And the historical documents indicate that there should be a significant amount of material remaining for the archeologist to study--building foundations, wells, privies, several historic Indian graves, etc. The following is a brief history of the village compiled from a preliminary search of the documents available here at the Historical Society.

Though Helena figured prominently in the early settlement of southwestern Wisconsin, the village has received little attention from serious historians. With the exception of an article written by Orin G. Libby and published in the Wisconsin Historical Collections in 1894, most histories of the village are brief, confusing, and often inaccurate. One reason for the confusion is that there was not one, but three, villages in Iowa County named Helena. The first was laid out by Henry Dodge in 1828 and was located in the northeast quarter of Section 30 Town of Wyoming near the confluence of Lowery Creek and the Wisconsin River. When Daniel Whitney began construction of the shot tower in 1832, the village contained half a dozen or more log buildings including a small structure which served as the office for the Government agent stationed at Helena to collect tariffs on the minerals mined from federal lands. The men employed by Whitney to dig the shafts for the shot tower were housed with a family in Helena. When Chief Black Hawk and his warriors began raiding settlements along the Wisconsin-Illinois frontier in 1832, work on the shot tower ceased and the village was abandoned. Libby writes: "The soldiers in pursuit of Black Hawk crossed the Wisconsin river here, and the log houses were torn down to furnish materials for rafts" (1894:342). Not all the buildings were destroyed, however. Fieldnotes from the original land survey of Iowa County, written in February 1833, make reference to Helena and describe the village as containing "6 or 8 unoccupied [sic] log Cabins or Buildings." However, the village was apparently not reoccupied after the Black Hawk War.

Work on the shot tower resumed in early 1833. The federal land surveyors noted: "...there is a shot tower now erecting [sic] by a gentleman from Green Bay by the name [of] Whitney, who expects to have it in operation sometime this ensuing summer." A company store was opened about this time approximately an eighth of a mile south west of the shot tower, on the site of the Village of Helena. By 1836, the shot tower was in full operation and work was begun on other buildings. "At Helena, the men were employed for nearly a year in getting out stone, cutting logs, sawing lumber, and erecting buildings. Among these buildings were a store, cooper shop, blacksmith shop, a log barracks for the men, and a warehouse,--the last named, a large five-story structure, the first two stories being of stone" (Libby 1894:346).

Mr. Steve Lewis - 3

February 15, 1980

A plat of Helena (reduced photocopy enclosed) was filed in the Iowa County Court House in 1837. Besides the shot tower, the plat shows the location of a house (presumably the log barracks), the store and a barn. It is interesting to compare this plat with a description of Helena written by William R. Smith following his visit there in the summer of 1837.

Not far from the bank of the river is erected a house for a store, near which I observed some Indian graves lately made. Immediately on the bank a large log building was put up by the United States agent superintending the lead mines, and was intended as an office and store house for the deposit of the government lead, received from the miners and smelters. * * * The building is going to decay. * * * From this point the road bends abruptly to the east, along the bank of the river, and a ride of two miles or thereabouts, through the site of the town of Helena, brings you to the shot tower and the buildings belonging to the Wisconsin Shot Company. Here is a large lumber yard, the lumber being chiefly pine, and shops are erected and workmen employed. The shot company have a very large assortment of goods and merchandise in their store which is here kept, and on the river bank there is now being built a store house [presumably the warehouse] of about fifty by seventy feet, the basement story of stone from the river beach to the top of the bank, and the upper story of frame" (as quoted in Libby 1894:351).

In the two years following, a large wharf was constructed in front of the warehouse to facilitate the loading and unloading of river boats.

In 1837, the nation was plunged into a severe economic depression. The depression affected not only the large cities of the East Coast, but reached far into the frontier as well. The shot tower ceased operation and remained closed for nearly two years. Work resumed in 1839, but the shot company remained beset with economic troubles throughout the 1840s; further hardship came in 1842, when the melting-house was destroyed by fire.

Shot making at Helena reached its peak in the 1850s, and it was during this decade that the village enjoyed its greatest prosperity. Of this period, Libby writes:

Mr. Steve Lewis - 4

February 15, 1980

In 1853, John Bradford of Winslow, Ill., was placed in charge of the tower. By means of superior facilities for making shot then in vogue, the daily output was nearly doubled. Nor was this increased business activity confined to the shot-tower alone: there was as well a brief but decided "boom" for the little village. Old Helena's one street assumed a thriving appearance (1894:366-367).

Most prominent among the buildings constructed in the 1850s was a hotel owned by Archibald Bernard. Besides operating the hotel, Bernard sold lumber -- Helena being an important lumber center at this time -- and operated a ferry across the Wisconsin River.

In 1857, the tower was shut down as a result of the national economic panic of that year. It opened the following spring, only to be finally closed in 1861. The failure of the business, and by extension the abandonment of Helena, is attributed to the depletion of lead from local mines, and the coming of the railroad. When the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad established a line a few miles north of Helena, the village was moved to its present location on the banks of the Wisconsin River, two miles due east of Spring Green.

The land owned by the shot company was sold for taxes in 1864, and several of the principal buildings were taken down and moved elsewhere. In 1889, the land passed into the hands of the Tower Hill Pleasure Company and for many years was used as a summer resort for ministers, teachers and others during the summer months. The Tower Hill Pleasure Company constructed a number of buildings, including five cottages, three log houses, a dining hall and a pavilion. These buildings were apparently not constructed within the former village, but on the adjacent hillslope. From the topographic map submitted with your letter last December, and the maps and atlases here at the Historical Society, there appears to have been little activity on the site of the old village following its abandonment to disturb the archeological remains.

It is my understanding that the Department of Natural Resources is presently considering plans for a new park entrance, the right-of-way for which would pass through the center of the old Helena. We recommend that these plans be suspended for a period until the area has been systematically surveyed by a qualified historical archeologist.

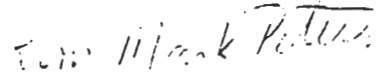
Mr. Steve Lewis - 5

February 15, 1980

The documentary evidence indicates that the area has tremendous potential for adding new information about the shot industry, the village, and the people who lived and worked there. In my opinion, the park must be considered as an entire historic village -- not just the site of the historic shot tower -- whose full potential for public interpretation has not been realized. An inventory of the historic archeological sites in the park would be an important and necessary first step in achieving the park's potential.

Our office is very interested in the future development of the park. We would be pleased to assist you in what ever way we can on this matter.

Sincerely,



Kim Mark Peters
Compliance Assistant

KMP:dk

Enclosure



The State of Wisconsin

FEB 18 1981

SCIENTIFIC AREAS PRESERVATION COUNCIL

Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

February 17, 1981

IN REPLY REFER TO: 2100

Mr. David Weizenicker
Acting Director
Bureau of Parks & Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Mr. Weizenicker:

We have reviewed the Tower Hill State Park master plan concept element and find that we support the goals, objectives and proposed management.

Since the park boundary is being reduced, the scientific area which was in the park will now fall outside the boundary in the Lower Wisconsin Recreation Area. We will be proposing expansion of the existing 25 acre scientific area to approximately 125 acres, and assume you will be transferring the scientific area file to the appropriate property manager for the Lower Wisconsin River Recreation Area.

Sincerely,

Forest Stearns
Forest Stearns, Chairman
Scientific Areas Preservation Council

cc: Bureau of Wildlife Management



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN 54701

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

February 27, 1981

Mr. David Weizenicker, Assistant Director
Bureau of Parks
Box 7921, DNR
Madison, WI 53707

Dear David Weizenicker:

It seems strange and a little awkward to be addressing anyone else besides the old war horse and my personal friend on state park matters-- but as the saying goes "time marches on." I am sure his philosophy on park management prevails on this project and it is a good one.

The Wild Resources Advisory Council wishes to congratulate the Tower Hill State Park Master Plan Concept Element Task Force of: Steven Lewis, Rich Purin, Carolyn Agnew, Thomas Meier, James Widder and LeRoy Wiesner, for drafting an exceptionally fine document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Henry W. Kolka".

Henry W. Kolka, Chairperson
Wild Resources Advisory Council

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: March 9, 1981

File Ref: 2510

To: Richard Lindberg - PLN/6

From: D. L. Weizenicker 

Subject: WRAC Comments on Tower Hill State Park Master Plan

Our Bureau's response to the Wild Resources Advisory Council comments and recommendations on the Tower Hill State Park Master Plan are as follows:

1. Page 6--Goals.

The WRAC finds the stated goal excellent. It is concise and covers all aspects of environmental public use concerns.

Department Response:

We concur that the property goal as developed by the Task Force is excellent.

2. Page 6--Objectives.

Item c. The WRAC is in agreement with projected goals listed in this objective. If such a plan could be endorsed and funded, it would unify the dispersed existing pattern of park management and it would focus park service where it belongs. However, considering the state economy and the political climate of today, it may be necessary to put it on the back burner. The Council hopes that this will not be necessary for fundamentally it is a sound plan.

Item d. In considering the proposal to cut back on overnight camping to 8-12 units, the Council endorses the plan basically because the environmental restriction makes it necessary for the proposed deletion.

Department Response:

We acknowledge the Council's endorsement of these two Master Plan objectives.

3. Page 10--Second paragraph

If the building program becomes a budgetary reality, the WRAC considers the so-called secondary system a great asset and the Council endorses it. However the Council recommends that solar heating also be considered for the proposed buildings. If not, an explanation could be added to the paragraph.

Department Response:

Per the Council's suggestion, it will be mentioned in the paragraph referred to that other alternative energy sources including solar heating will be considered.

4. Pages 11 and 12.

WRAC wishes to call attention to its comments under Item c under comment heading 2.

Department Response:

So noted.

5. Top of Page 13.

The WRAC is unable to interpret the statement 2,000 and 3,000 lines at a cost of \$4,000.

Department Response:

The 2,000 and 3,000 lines (accounts) refers to the property's budget allotment for contractual services (2,000 account) and supplies (3,000 account). The total fiscal year allotment for these two accounts is \$4,000.

6. Page 13--Other Considerations.

The WRAC sees no problem in splitting off a corner of the Scientific Area to the park and leaving majority of the area under the jurisdiction of wildlife managers of the Helena Marsh Unit so long as the Scientific Areas Preservation Council's agreements are respected. The WRAC doesn't quite understand why the park wishes to hang on to that small sliver. Why not cut off the park boundary at the boundary of the Scientific Area?

Department Response:

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The reference to the Tower Hill Bottoms Scientific Area on page 13 of the Master Plan did not represent the latest decision on the transfer of the Scientific Area. This paragraph will be transferred to Wildlife Management. Figure 9 will also be revised accordingly.

7. The charts accompanying the park's Concept Element text are excellently prepared and relate readily to the reviewer interpretation. The Council detects some "overkill" in this category. Eliminating page 14 and figure 2 on page 17 will certainly not distract from the efficiency of property interpretation. Figure 3 is noteworthy of the compliment. This is one of the best map presentations of distances from the proposed site that the Council has observed along its long review of state properties. Figure 9 on page 24 is commented on by the Council under Comment Item 6. This chart provides obvious need to adjust the park boundary for the southeast corner of the Scientific Area. The Council feels quite confident that SAPC would prefer single custodianship to fulfill its agreements on management.

Department Response:

Page 14 and Figure 2 are part of the standard master plan format adopted by the Parks Bureau. Please note our response under Item 6 relative to Figure 9.

8. Beginning on Page 26, Section II--Support Data

The WRAC finds this section of the Concept Element well documented and presented. The Council is particularly impressed with the historical section. Our compliments.

Department Response:

Thank you for the Council's compliment.

9. Page 29--Table of Visitor Use.

The WRAC questions the numbers for 1974. Please adjust.

Department Response:

The 1974 attendance figure will be corrected.

10. Page 33--Second Paragraph.

This is an excellent summary of resident birds. Since most people visit the park during summer season, how about listing the most common species of migrant nestors. I am sure the visiting birders would appreciate that added dimension of wildlife. Other listings that would enhance the naturalist's appreciation of the park would be that of reptiles and amphibians.

Richard Lindberg - March 9, 1981

4.

Department Response:

The "Tower Hill State Park Visitor" (the park's "newspaper") is a handout available to the public. It contains three excellent articles on "Birds In The Park" and "Animal Life In The Park" among many other interesting sources of information.

11. Page 33--Vegetation Cover.

The Council suggests that listing of lowland flowers comparable to the upland listing (1st paragraph, page 34) be added to first paragraph under Vegetative Cover.

Department Response:

A plant list of lowland flowers is not presently available. However, we are recommending in the Master Plan (1st paragraph, page 34) that as funds permit a biological inventory of all animal and plant species in the park should be conducted.

12. Pages 46, 47, and 48--Alternatives.

The WRAC agrees with the Task Force that alternative number 2 is most realistic and appropriate for Tower Hill State Park. The Council endorses it and recommends it for Natural Resources Board approval.

Department Response:

We also support the Task Force's decision in choosing alternative #2 as the most appropriate management and development alternative for Tower Hill State Park.

Thank you for the Council's thorough review and helpful comments on the Tower Hill Master Plan.

cc: J.L. Treichel

→ J.J. Kulhanek

